



RUIZ-HEALY ART

Contemporary Art from Latin America & Texas

Patricia Ruiz-Healy, Director Ruiz-Healy Art
Gallery: 210-804-2219

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Prematurely Discarded: Photography of Chuck Ramirez
January 22 - February 25

Octavia Art Gallery in collaboration with Ruiz-Healy Art

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 22, 5 - 8pm

Location: 3637 West Alabama, Suite 120, Houston, TX

Octavia Art Gallery, in collaboration with Ruiz-Healy Art, is pleased to present *Prematurely Discarded*, an exhibition featuring a selection of works by photographer **Chuck Ramirez (1962-2010)**. It will open with a reception on **Thursday, January 22nd from 5 to 8pm** and will run until **February 25th**. The exhibition, which will feature photographs from the last decade of the artist's life, is made possible through a **partnership with Ruiz-Healy Art of San Antonio**, the exclusive representative of the Estate of Chuck Ramirez.

About the Exhibition

"When I am empty please dispose of me properly," the words emblazoned across the front of a plastic cup in Chuck Ramirez's *Whatacup*, evoke the preoccupation with discardment, which is persistent in the artist's work. Chuck Ramirez often produced images of everyday objects, photographing his subjects out of context, isolated against a stark white background, thereby enticing the viewer to reexamine them. For Ramirez, photographing rubbish wasn't just about finding beauty in the mundane; it was also about exploring the fragility and temporality of life. Mortality emerged as a key theme in Ramirez's work, and many of the quotidian subjects were expressions of his reorientated view of life that grew out living with both HIV and a dire heart condition. This exhibition explores the refuse that so often was the focal point of Ramirez's photographs. By dignifying discarded objects, Ramirez illuminated subconscious concerns with ephemerality, mortality and his concern with being prematurely discarded.

About Chuck Ramirez

Ramirez showed extensively throughout the United States, Mexico and Europe. Solo and group exhibitions include: the Bronx Museum of Contemporary Art, New York; El Portal del Arte Contemporáneo (ARCO), Madrid; Centro de la Imagen and Galerie Lamm, Mexico City; Galeries Khadrberlin, Berlin; Arlington Museum of Contemporary Art; Center of Visual Arts, Denver; the Austin Museum of Art at Laguna Gloria; the Institute of Visual Arts, Milwaukee; Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum San Antonio; and the Elizabeth Dee Gallery, New York. He was selected for an Artpace residency in 2001. Ramirez's works are part of important collections around the world, including: the San Antonio Museum of Art; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi; The McNay Art Museum, San Antonio; The New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe; The European Museum of Photography, Paris; the University of Texas at San Antonio; AT&T Center Art Collection; The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, San Antonio; The Hildago Foundation of Bexar County; San Antonio Water Systems; and Linda Pace Foundation.



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About Octavia Art Gallery

Octavia Art Gallery was established in 2008. The gallery was founded by owner Pamela Bryan. The mission of Octavia Art Gallery is to showcase the work of international emerging and established contemporary artists along with modern masters, emphasizing the preservation and conservation of unique and authentic artistic cultures worldwide. Octavia Art Gallery has locations in both New Orleans and Houston.

About Ruiz-Healy Art

Founded in 2004, Ruiz-Healy Art is located in the historic Olmos Park District of San Antonio and specializes in modern and contemporary art with an emphasis on Latin American and Texas connected artists. Ruiz-Healy Art is the exclusive representative of the Estate of Chuck Ramirez.